

APPLICATION

FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

SPECIFICATION

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, **Stacey E. Fenley**, a citizen of the United States, have
invented a new and useful school document storage system of which the following is a
specification:

1
2
3 **School Document Storage System**
4
5

6 **CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

7 Not applicable to this application.
8
9

10 **STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY**
11 **SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT**

12 Not applicable to this application.
13
14

15 **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**
16
17
18

19 **Field of the Invention**
20

21 The present invention relates generally to document retaining devices and more
22 specifically it relates to a school document storage system for providing efficient and
23 organized storage of a child's school documents based upon grade level.
24
25

1 **Description of the Related Art**

2

3 Storage devices have been in use for years. Typically, storage devices are
4 comprised of a single compartment that has a removable cover (e.g. cardboard
5 shipping boxes, multi-use containers).

6

7 The main problem with conventional storage devices is that they do not
8 efficiently organize and store school documents (e.g. artwork, schoolwork, report
9 cards, awards, etc.) based upon the grade of the child. Another problem with
10 conventional storage devices is that they are not easily accessible and do not encourage
11 the saving of school documents at the time the documents are received by parents. A
12 further problem with conventional storage devices is that they do not protect the
13 documents from water, dirt and other debris. A further problem with conventional
14 storage devices is that they do not provide a system for efficiently storing and
15 retrieving school documents based upon school year. Another problem with
16 conventional storage devices is that they are not acid free or of archival quality. A
17 further problem with conventional storage devices is that they are not large enough to
18 accommodate large sheets of paper commonly utilized in school art projects. Another
19 problem with conventional storage devices is that they are typically not attractive nor
20 do they appeal to children.

21

22 While these devices may be suitable for the particular purpose to which they
23 address, they are not as suitable for providing efficient and organized storage of a
24 child's school documents based upon grade level. Conventional storage devices do not
25 provide a system for effectively storing in a separate manner all of the years a child
26 attends school.

27

28 In these respects, the school document storage system according to the present
29 invention substantially departs from the conventional concepts and designs of the prior

1 art, and in so doing provides an apparatus primarily developed for the purpose of
2 providing efficient and organized storage of a child's school documents based upon
3 grade level.

4

5

1

2 **BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

3

4 In view of the foregoing disadvantages inherent in the known types of storage
5 devices now present in the prior art, the present invention provides a new school
6 document storage system construction wherein the same can be utilized for providing
7 efficient and organized storage of a child's school documents based upon grade level.

8

9 The general purpose of the present invention, which will be described
10 subsequently in greater detail, is to provide a new school document storage system that
11 has many of the advantages of the storage devices mentioned heretofore and many
12 novel features that result in a new school document storage system which is not
13 anticipated, rendered obvious, suggested, or even implied by any of the prior art
14 storage devices, either alone or in any combination thereof.

15

16 To attain this, the present invention generally comprises an outer housing
17 having a cover member, and a plurality of inner compartments removably positioned
18 within an interior of the outer housing. A transparent pocket is preferably positioned
19 within the front portion of the outer housing for receiving a picture or other display
20 item. A plurality of closure apertures are within the cover member that removably
21 receive closure members attached to the upper sides of the outer housing. The cover
22 member preferably has an upper member, a front member extending from the upper
23 member and a pair of side members extending from the upper member.

24

25 There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the
26 invention in order that the detailed description thereof may be better understood, and
27 in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are
28 additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and that will form
29 the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29

In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the invention in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and to the arrangements of the components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose of the description and should not be regarded as limiting.

A primary object of the present invention is to provide a school document storage system that will overcome the shortcomings of the prior art devices.

A second object is to provide a school document storage system for providing efficient and organized storage of a child's school documents based upon grade level.

Another object is to provide a school document storage system that preserves school documents for a child in an organized and structured manner.

An additional object is to provide a school document storage system that provides efficient access to school documents.

A further object is to provide a school document storage system that increases the child's pride in their schoolwork.

Another object is to provide a school document storage system that may receive various sizes of school documents.

Another object is to provide a school document storage system that is acid free and of archival quality.

1

2 Another object is to provide a school document storage system that is sufficient
3 in size to receive large school documents without requiring folding of the same.

4

5 Another object is to provide a school document storage system that is attractive
6 and appeals to school children to assist them in taking pride in their work.

7

8 Another object is to provide a school document storage system that is stores the
9 important works of a child's school career in one location.

10

11 Other objects and advantages of the present invention will become obvious to the
12 reader and it is intended that these objects and advantages are within the scope of the
13 present invention.

14

15 To the accomplishment of the above and related objects, this invention may be
16 embodied in the form illustrated in the accompanying drawings, attention being called
17 to the fact, however, that the drawings are illustrative only, and that changes may be
18 made in the specific construction illustrated and described within the scope of the
19 appended claims.

1
2 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**
3

4 Various other objects, features and attendant advantages of the present
5 invention will become fully appreciated as the same becomes better understood when
6 considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference
7 characters designate the same or similar parts throughout the several views, and
8 wherein:
9

10 FIG. 1 is an upper perspective view of the present invention.
11

12 FIG. 2 is a front view of the present invention.
13

14 FIG. 3 is an upper perspective view of the present invention with the cover
15 member opened.
16

17 FIG. 4 is an upper perspective view of the present invention with the inner
18 compartments partially removed.
19

20 FIG. 5 is an upper perspective view of an inner compartment in a closed state.
21

22 FIG. 6 is an upper perspective view of an inner compartment in a partially open
23 state.
24

25 FIG. 7 is an upper perspective view of an inner compartment in a fully open
26 state.
27

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

A. Overview

Turning now descriptively to the drawings, in which similar reference characters denote similar elements throughout the several views, FIGS. 1 through 7 illustrate a school document storage system **10**, which comprises an outer housing **20** having a cover member **30**, and a plurality of inner compartments **60** removably positioned within an interior of the outer housing **20**. A transparent pocket **50** is preferably positioned within the front portion of the outer housing **20** for receiving a picture or other display item. A plurality of closure apertures **31** are within the cover member **30** that removably receive closure members **40** attached to the upper sides of the outer housing **20**. The cover member **30** preferably has an upper member **32**, a front member **34** extending from the upper member **32** and a pair of side members extending from the upper member **32**.

B. Outer Housing

Figures 1 through 4 illustrate the outer housing **20** having an interior portion. The outer housing **20** is preferably comprised of a material that prevents ultraviolet light from entering the contents of the outer housing **20**. In addition, the outer housing **20** is preferably comprised of a material that is impermeable to water and debris.

The outer housing **20** has an upper opening **24** for allowing insertion and removal of a plurality of inner compartments **60**. The outer housing **20** preferably includes a front cutout **26** for assisting in providing easy access to the inner compartments **60** within the outer housing **20**. The outer housing **20** may have various shapes, however it is preferable to have a rectangular upper opening **24** that reflects the cross section of the outer housing **20** as shown in Figures 1 through 4 of the drawings.

1 A cover member **30** is attached to the outer housing **20** for selectively closing
2 the upper opening **24**. The cover member **30** may be attached to the outer housing **20**
3 via various methods including pivotal, removable and the like. The cover member **30**
4 includes a plurality of closure apertures **31** as best shown in Figures 3 and 4 of the
5 drawings.

6
7 A plurality of closure members **40** are attached to the outer housing **20**, wherein
8 said closure members **40** are catchably received within said closure apertures **31**. The
9 closure apertures **31** are preferably positioned within the front member **34**, the first
10 side member **36** and the second side member **38** of the cover member **30**. The closure
11 members **40** may be comprised of various closure devices such as but not limited to
12 twist closures, buttons, hook and loop fastener and the like.

13
14 As shown in Figures 3 and 4 of the drawings, the cover member **30** preferably
15 has an upper member **32**, a front member **34** extending from the upper member **32**, a
16 first side member **36** extending from the upper member **32**, and a second side member
17 **38** extending from the upper member **32** opposite of the first side member **36**. The
18 front member **34**, the first side member **36** and the second side member **38** are
19 preferably pivotally attached to the upper member **32**. As shown in Figures 1, 3 and 4
20 of the drawings, the upper member **32** has a rectangular shape, however various other
21 shapes may be utilized to form the upper member **32** corresponding to the upper
22 opening **24** of the outer housing **20**.

23
24 As shown in Figures 1 through 4 of the drawings, a pair of outer handles **22** are
25 attached to opposing sides of the outer housing **20**. The outer handles **22** are
26 preferably pivotally attached, however various other connections may be utilized.

1 **C. *Inner Compartments***

2 As shown in Figures 3 and 7 of the drawings, a plurality of inner compartments
3 **60** are removably positioned within an interior of the outer housing **20**. Each of the
4 inner compartments **60** is capable of storing a grade level of school documents **12** such
5 as artwork, schoolwork, report cards, awards and the like. The inner compartments **60**
6 are preferably comprised of a resilient, water impermeable and ultraviolet light
7 protective material to protect the school documents **12** within. Each of the inner
8 compartments **60** preferably includes an inner handle **62** as shown in Figures 3 through
9 5 of the drawings.

10

11 As further shown in Figures 3 and 4 of the drawings, the inner compartments **60**
12 are preferably comprised of at least 6 inner compartments **60** that are positioned
13 substantially parallel to one another within the interior of the outer housing **20**. Each
14 of the inner compartments **60** has a lid **70** for providing access and protection to the
15 school documents **12** within.

16

17 The lid **70** preferably includes a plurality of engaging members **72** that
18 selectively engage a corresponding plurality of slits **64** within the inner compartments
19 **60** as shown in Figures 6 and 7 of the drawings. Various other fastener devices may be
20 utilized for selectively closing the lid **70** of the inner compartments **60**.

21

22 As shown in Figures 3 and 4 of the drawings, a plurality of labels **66** are
23 attached to the inner compartments **60** indicating what grade level of school documents
24 **12** are to be retained within each of the inner compartments **60**. The labels **66** each
25 have indicia that indicate the grade level (or plurality of grade levels) that each
26 particular inner compartment **60** represents. In addition, the grade level may be
27 printed/written directly upon the inner compartment **60**.

28

1 The labels **66** may be preprinted with the grade levels or have a blank space for
2 the user to write the grade level upon. For example, the first inner compartment **60**
3 may store school documents **12** for a student for pre-kindergarten to kindergarten. The
4 second compartment **60** may store school documents **12** for 1st and 2nd grades. The
5 third compartment **60** may store school documents **12** for 3rd and 4th grades. The
6 process continues until the child leaves high school (though expansion into college
7 may also be utilized).

8

9 ***D. Pocket***

10 As shown in Figures 1 through 4 of the drawings, a transparent pocket **50** is
11 preferably attached within a front portion of the outer housing **20** for receiving a
12 display item (e.g. picture, name tag). The pocket **50** may be formed to receive various
13 sizes and thicknesses of display items. The pocket **50** may be attached to the exterior
14 of the outer housing **20** or within an opening within the outer housing **20**.

15

16 ***E. Operation of Invention***

17 When the parent has a school document **12** that requires storage, the parent
18 removes the inner compartment **60** that corresponds to the grade level of the school
19 document **12**. The parent opens the inner compartment **60** and inserts the school
20 document **12** into the inner compartment thereafter closing the inner compartment **60**.
21 The user then positions the inner compartment **60** back into the outer housing **20** and
22 then closes the cover member **30** to protect the inner compartments **60** and the school
23 documents **12**. This process continues as each new school document **12** is received.
24 The above process is repeated if the user desires to review a selected school document
25 **12** from a specific grade level.

26

27 As to a further discussion of the manner of usage and operation of the present
28 invention, the same should be apparent from the above description. Accordingly, no
29 further discussion relating to the manner of usage and operation will be provided.

1

2 With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum
3 dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size,
4 materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are
5 deemed to be within the expertise of those skilled in the art, and all equivalent
6 structural variations and relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and
7 described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

8

9 Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of
10 the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to
11 those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction
12 and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and
13 equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.